

REMARKS

Claims 3-11, 15 and 16 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3, 15 and 16 being independent.

Claim 3 has been placed in independent form to include allowable subject matter. In addition, Claims 15 and 16 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 1, 2 and 12-14 have been cancelled.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheets of Drawings, showing Figures 16-19 labelled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner. Approval of the drawing corrections is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14 were withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected species. In this regard, Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended and now depend from Claim 3.

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 3, 5, 7 and 9 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter. As noted above, Claim 3 is now presented in independent form and therefore submitted to be allowable. Dependent Claims 4-11 are also submitted to be allowable.

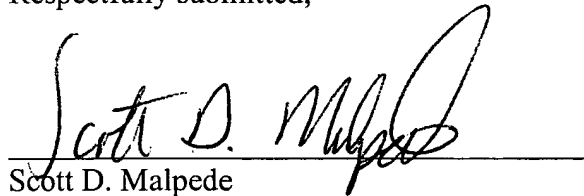
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 4-341438. Claims 1, 2 and 12 were rejected as allegedly being obvious over Japanese Patent No. 9-201783. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Claims 1, 2 and 12 have been cancelled. These rejections are therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in Claims 3-11 is allowable. In addition, Claims 15 and 16 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. As will be appreciated, these claims include the feature of manipulating the target object by causing the fluid control means to control inflow/outflow of a fluid through the openings, similar to Claim 3. Support for Claims 15 and 16 can be found, beginning on page 11, line 22 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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